

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to exchanging data between software components in a distributed software system comprising a first software component and a second software component. A first data exchange metadata description is provided that contains information on data structures used in a serialized data exchange by the first software component. A dedicated second data exchange metadata description is provided for each older version of the second software component, each second data exchange metadata description containing information on data structures to be used in a serialized data exchange by the second software component. As a consequence, the first software component having a newer version is able to exchange data with any of the older second software components by using the respective data exchange metadata in data serialization and deserialization.